MW capacity, in Karnataka which is under construction since 1987, is held up on account of some pending environmental issues; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Sharavati Tail Race Project in Karnataka was accorded environmental and forestry clearance in March, 1987 and September, 1986 respectively with certain conditions. Subsequently, a case was filed in the High Court of Karnataka by the local people and environmental groups against the project. The Court ordered review of the clearances given by the Ministry within three months. On a review of the case it was decided to seek six months extension so that response is filed with the High Court by November, 1991. Meanwhile, compliance status of the stipulated conditions is awaited from the project authorities.

Representation by Karnataka Government for increase in Rate of Interest on Small Savings

1117. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has made a representation for increasing the rate of interest on small savings; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Karnataka Government has made a general suggestion for an increase in the interest rates on small savings schemes.

Creation of Office of Environment Manager

1118. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation to make it mandatory for companies to create the office of environment manager; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration. It is also being examined whether it should be mandatory or recommendatory.

Devastation of Villages inhabited by SC in West Bengal

1119. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi of the 9th August, 1991 caption 'Innocent victims of Bengal politics' wherein it has been stated that half a dozen villages inhabited by Scheduled Castes were devastated;

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have directed the Government of West Bengal to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The State Government has been requested to implement the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and the guidelines issued.

Hardship faced by Central Government Pensioners

1120. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government Pensioners who draw their pensions from Treasury, Punjab National Bank and State Bank of India, Pauri Garhwal, UP, are facing great hardship due to corruption prevailing there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government pensioners there do not get the D.A. instalments at the time the same are announced by the Central Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to take necessary steps to see that the Central Government pensioners get timely payment of D.A. from their respective Banks in Pauri Garhwal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b) No such instances have come to the notice of the Government so far.

(c)and (d) Whenever any additional relief in pension is sanctioned by the Government, copies of the orders are sent by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions to the representatives of each Public Sector Banks for arranging immediate payment of increased D.A. to the pensioners. Also, instructions already exist for collection of sanction orders of D.A. relief by representatives of the Banks from Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare for transmission to Paying Branches within ten days for implementation.

Afforestation Plans for Tribal Areas in Madhya Pradesh

1121. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have any afforestation plans with its own finance for the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh in order to augment the natural resources therein; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Central assistance for afforestation and tree planting activities in Madhya Pradesh, including the tribal areas of the State, is being provided under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The details of Central assistance provided to the State from 1988-89 to 1990-91 and the allocations for 1991-92 are as under:—

Names of the Schemes	Central assistance provided from 1988-89 to 1990-91 (Rs. in lakhs)	Allocations for 1991-92 (Rs. in lakhs)
(1)	(2)	(3)
Ministry of Environment & Forests		
(National Wastelands Development Board)		
(1) Integrated Wastelands Development Projects	249.64	400.00
(2) Rural Fuelwood Plantations . . .	228.73	..